

**From:** David Roper  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 3:09pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Sir,

In my opinion Microsoft has flagrantly and repeatedly exploited its effective monopoly on the supply of PC operating systems to eliminate competition in other sectors. For example, it has used its position essentially to eliminate serious competition in the areas of office automation suites - word processors, spreadsheets, e-mail and news readers, contact managers and calendars and personal databases - as well as in the arena of web-browsers. It is now using its position as virtually the sole supplier of PC operating systems to force users to upgrade not only the OS, but also all these essential software applications on a regular basis.

May I suggest that any compromise agreement made with Microsoft must include an absolute requirement for Microsoft to:

- (a) publish complete and detailed description of the file formats used by all its 'Office' applications;
- (b) to ensure that any changes to such file formats that are required to support new versions of these applications are published at least six months in advance of the production release by Microsoft of the applications; and
- (c) adopt, as the default file format for such office application such publicly defined formats as are from time to time issued by bodies such as the World Wide Web consortium (W3C) and the Object Management Group (OMG). As these membership of these organisations is open to all, Microsoft should have no problem with influencing their specifications to ensure completeness and utility.

Yours faithfully,

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